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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to assess the monetary and human costs and benefits of the Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program in Ramsey County, Minnesota. A 21-item questionnaire was used to survey 53 of the 161 families who had participated in the program. The vast majority of the sample consisted of single, female, working-parent families with from one to four children enrolled in the program. Data from respondents' questionnaires were used to analyze direct and indirect negative effects on the families and the monetary cost to the government of terminating the program. Results showed that 23% of the families surveyed were forced to quit work to qualify for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), reduce their income to qualify for Title XX, or place their children in cheaper but less satisfactory child care arrangements as a result of program termination. Further results showed that 62% of the families (not exclusive of the 23% reported above) made written comments about serious difficulties they had had to face when the program was terminated. Although cost data showed that the average net cost to the government was much higher during the program than either before or after, results were interpreted as showing that the program financially benefitted the government in the long run since net expenditures were somewhat lower after the program than they had been before the program. Several pages of appendices are included. (JMB)

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AN EVALUATION OF

THE PILOT CHILD CARE SLIDING FEE PROGRAM

IN RAMSEY COUNTY

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Prepared by
Child Care Council of Ramsey County, Inc.
6 West 5th Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102
July, 1978

INTRODUCTION

A "sliding fee" is a method of payment by which rates are adjusted in accordance with a purchaser's ability to pay. The sliding fee being discussed in this report pertains to the fee schedule by which parents pay to have their children cared for while they are away from home.

The question of who should pay for the cost of third party child care has been debated in the past, but it is presently accepted that the government should bear at least some portion of this expense. This is relected in the current federal tax credit which allows families to deduct 20% of their child care costs from their federal income tax, and in the Minnesota state tax credit which allows further deduction at one half of the federal limit. For the lower income family, however, these are but token rebates in the face of their overall financial status. It is for this reason that, when gross family income falls at a low enough level (below 60% of state median income), funds are available through Title XX of the Social Security Act to fully subsidize child care costs. A problem still exists, however, when family income marginally passes the cutoff point for Title XX eligibility; an increase of as little as $10 in monthly gross income can render a family totally ineligible for subsidized care, displacing the entire cost back onto the parents. When this happens, families usually find that their increases in income are much smaller than the increases in child care costs which they incur. This produces a frustrating situation wherein families are not motivated to increase their income because they know that they are better off financially to keep their income low enough to retain Title XX eligibility. In addition to the problems caused by the hardships this imposes on such families, government loses potential revenue and must maintain the higher expenditures required to provide full subsidies.

To ease the abrupt transition to full family responsibility for the cost of child care, it was proposed that Ramsey County initiate a sliding fee program whereby funds would be made available to partially subsidize child care costs in decreasing increments as family income rose above the Title XX eligibility cutoff. To assess the feasibility of such a program, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorized a Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program in 1976. The program was then implemented in January of that year, funded with county and state Child Care Facilities Act monies. The program was terminated in May of 1977 because continuing funds were not available through either state or federal sources, and the county was not able to maintain the program with local tax funds.

While Ramsey County parents still appeared to be in need of such a program, it became necessary to conduct a formal evaluation of the program in order to provide the information needed to formulate future policy regarding the funding of such programs. The aim of the present study is, in fact, to assess the monetary and human costs and benefits of the Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program in Ramsey County.

BACKGROUND

The most comprehensive and readily available document on the subject of sliding fee schedules is a report prepared by Abt Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Their aim was to assess the potential financial impact of different fee schedules which would result from the use of varying eligibility criteria. While this is of value at the higher levels of social planning, it does not address the practical question of what effect an existing program has upon those families who utilize it. In contrast, the present study seeks to approach the cost question from the comprehensive perspective of both human and monetary cost.

PROCEDURE

Population

Information for this study came from 53 families who had participated in the Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program for some period of time between February and May of 1977. 91% of those who responded were single heads of household and, of these single parents, 98% were female. Among the heads of household, 93% were employed during the time they were enrolled in the program; the rest were either in college or job training. The vast majority of the sample under study, then, consisted of single, female, working-parent families.

Family size ranged from 2 to 5 members, with from 1 to 4 children enrolled in the program. The average number of enrolled children was 1.57 per family. 2% of the families received AFDC before the program and 2% received AFDC after the program ended. 9% of the families received Title XX full subsidies before the program and 8% received Title XX in the months immediately following termination of the program. There were no AFDC or Title XX payments during the program because families had to maintain a higher level of income to qualify for the sliding fee.

Methodology

The data were collected after the program ended by means of a questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was a 21-item instrument which was developed through two pretests and revisions. The questionnaire and the average responses of the 53 families are reproduced in the appendices.

The intent of the investigators was to survey all 161 families who had participated in the final four months of the pilot program. 161 envelopes were prepared, each one containing a questionnaire form, an explanatory cover letter, a card by means of which the participants might indicate that they wanted a copy of the final report, and a stamped, return-addressed envelope for the completed questionnaire. Due to confidentiality regulations, the research staff of the Child Care Council did not have access to the identities of the families who had participated in the program; envelopes and questionnaires were identified by

number only, and were addressed by workers at the Ramsey County Welfare Department. Responses were encouraged with the promise of a raffle for small prizes to be given away among respondents.

Three weeks after the first mailing it was learned that 16 families had moved and left no forwarding address by which they could be contacted. Of the 145 remaining families, 42 returned completed questionnaires after the initial mailing. A follow-up reminder was then mailed to the 103 families who had not responded. 11 more families responded, leaving the number of nonrespondents at 92. Because of staff shortages at the welfare department, no further solicitation of responses was conducted. The 53 families who did respond represent 33% of the original 161 participating families. Because there was no viable method for insuring that the 53 respondent families were statistically representative of the entire sample, the reader is cautioned that inferences drawn from these statistics may be speculative. The present report undertakes primarily to describe the effects of the program on these 53 families.

Analysis

To assess the human costs involved, it was hypothesized that families who were terminated because of the discontinuation of the program would respond by either decreasing their income to qualify for Title XX, quitting work to qualify for AFDC, or placing their children in a cheaper but less satisfactory child care arrangement. Any of these possibilities would constitute a negative outcome. Beyond these alternatives, however, participants' written comments identified areas of significant hardship that were not classifiable into these hypothesized categories. Such families, though they were not forced to select one of the predicted alternatives, were nevertheless affected in significant ways by the termination of the pilot program. Therefore, the number of families who suffered one or more of the hypothesized effects was analyzed in conjunction with those families whose written comments indicated that they were strongly affected by the program or by its absence. These were the direct negative effects.

To find out how the termination of the program affected families in more indirect ways, participants were asked a series of questions about the quality of their child care, job satisfaction, money worries, personal happiness, dependence on others, etc.; they were then asked to indicate when these quality of life characteristics had been most prevalent in their family -- before, during, or after the program, or no difference. The percentages of respondents rating each characteristic according to program interval were assembled in table form to demonstrate how the program's termination affected the 53 families.

To assess the monetary cost to government of the program, it was necessary to derive a figure which reflected the net cost which was involved. This involved three steps:

First of all, a monthly gross family income figure was tabulated for each family using information supplied on the survey form. Three income figures were calculated for each family to assess costs during each of the intervals before, during, or after the program.

Next, federal and state income taxes, and state sales tax estimates, were

computed for each of the income figures. This was done to determine how much tax revenue the government had collected from each family before, during, and after the program. All calculations were done precisely, taking into account child care tax credits and low income allowances wherever appropriate.

Finally, to obtain the net cost to government figures, the per-family cost of all subsidies (AFDC, Title XX, sliding fee subsidies, medical assistance payments, food stamps, general assistance grants, etc.) during each interval were subtracted from the corresponding monthly government tax revenue figures. This difference was then the actual, net cost to government for each family during each interval. The net figures were summed and averaged for each interval so that it could be determined whether there were differences between the three intervals. The investigators' reasoning in doing this was: First, family income during the program would seem to have had to have risen to cover formerly-subsidized expenses since, by rule, sliding fee subsidies were the only child care subsidies that a family could receive during the time they were on the program (other than standard income tax credits for the family share of child care expenses); secondly, perhaps the higher tax revenues generated by this rise in family income, together with the absence of other subsidies, would have rendered the net cost to government no greater during the program than it was before or after the program by offsetting sliding fee expenditures.

RESULTS

Of the 53 families, 41 of them (77%) were forced to leave the program because of its termination. The other 12 families left the program for various reasons: 3 families left because they stopped working; 3 families left because their income rose and they became ineligible; 2 families left because they went on Title XX; one family left because the father finished school and went to work while the mother cared for the children; one family left because the father went into graduate school and they were ruled ineligible; one family left because the child attained school age and no longer needed care; and one family left because they found that they "got so little that it wasn't worth the effort to submit the forms every month..."

Human Costs

Of the 41 families forced to leave the program because of its termination, 12 (23% of the total 53) reported that they had either decreased their income to qualify for Title XX, quit work to qualify for AFDC, or placed their children in cheaper but less satisfactory child care arrangements. 33 families (62% of the total 53) made written comments about serious difficulties they had had to face as a result of termination. (These 33 families were not exclusive of the 12 who selected one of the predicted alternatives.) A sample of their comments is included below:

> "I moved out of my apartment and into my parent's home. I could not qualify for AFDC and could not afford to rent and pay for child care..."

"I refinanced the loan on my mobile home to lower the payments..."

"I continued working for about 3 months to see if I could make it financially but I didn't so I quit and moved up North and stayed with relatives..."

"The mothers who are honestly trying to make a go of it always seem to get a bad deal. I have never been on AFDC. When I tried to get help, I always got turned down. I'm lucky I could live with my parents so I'd have a house to live in..."

"I just paid for it myself, drained my savings account dry, and am living day to day to get by..."

"I had to leave my diabetic child home alone...I have to work two jobs..."

"Why can't women (especially with training and education) have jobs that pay enough to live on comfortably, instead of the government needing to provide assistance?"

"I had to take out a loan to pay for my babysitter!!"

"I could never have survived without the program. That is why I had to move when it ended..."

"Without help with day care expenses I could not have continued to work..."

"Without it I feel many people, myself included, are left with no choice but to go to a more expensive assistance program such as AFDC..."

In addition to the hardships which were identified in the written comments, many of the parents also gave their personal opinions of how the program had affected their lives. These are more than opinions, however, because they also give the reader a flavor of the types of people who responded to the questionnaire. Below are some of these types of statements:

"I feel that there is a definite need for the sliding fee scale in regard to child care. The number of single women who are heads of households has increased drastically over the past few years. These women must work or attend school to acquire skills which enable them to re-enter the job market. Child care is of the utmost importance to me and without good quality care I would not be able to off to work feeling secure about the welfare of my children. I feel better about myself and my children rather than going on welfare..."

"The sliding fee program enabled me to see a future...who can afford $250 to $300 a month and expect to get anywhere?"

"After 4 years of struggling and watching my hard-earned tax money

paying welfare mothers who were capable of working but liked a free ride...I finally got some help with the sliding fee..."

"It is a program that appreciates the plight of someone with marginal earnings who is not eligible for further assistance..."

"This was an excellent program...and it restored my faith that the government also wants to help working mothers keep their jobs versus doing it the easy way and going on AFDC..."

"I don't think that this program affects those families on welfare, but for people like me trying to stay off welfare, I think this is an excellent program..."

Two things are evident about the 53 families who responded to the survey. 23% of them were forced to quit work, reduce their income, or take lower quality child care in order to try and maintain their family's stability. 62% of them (not exclusive of the former 23%) had to take significant measures other than the three named above. All of these preceding categories have described mainly those families who were the "sufferers", rather than those who did not seem to have been so extremely affected. To develop a representative picture of the overall sample, all subjects were asked a series of questions about the quality of their and their family's lives, and were asked to rate them according to when they were optimal -- before, during, or after the program, or no difference. The percentages of the entire sample who were so affected during each of the intervals are listed in Table 1. Examination of the table gives a clearer picture of how the program affected the lives of participants in more indirect ways than those previously discussed.

The 14 items of the question can be roughly divided into three categories based on how participants related them to the pilot sliding fee program. The first category contains those quality of life characteristics which were seen as being strongly related to the program by a large majority (65+%) of the 53 families. The second category includes those characteristics which were seen as being related to the program by a significant number of families (33% - 65%), but were seen as being unrelated by some. The third category includes those items which most of the families (65+%) perceived as being not related to the program.

The strongly related quality of life characteristics were the number of problems a family had, the amount of faith people had in the government, the degree of financial worries families experienced, and the time when the head of the household felt most able to support the family.

The related characteristics were the degree of job satisfaction, frequency of arguments with children, the quality of available child care, the parent's level of self-esteem, the children's general happiness, the amount of motivation to get ahead, and the degree of dependence on other people which was necessary.

Those characteristics which appear not to have been related to the program include the time when the parent had the greatest number of job opportunities, the time when the children most liked their caregiver, and the time when parents

Table 1.

Effects of Sliding Fee Program on Quality of Life:

Percentage of Respondents by Interval

	BEFORE PROGRAM	DURING PROGRAM	AFTER PROGRAM	NO DIFFERENCE	MULTIPLE RESPONSE
a. When did your children most like their caregiver?	2	13	-	79	6
b. When were you most satisfied with your job?	-	53	2	43	2
c. When were your family problems the worst?	21	-	43	23	13
d. When did you argue most with your children?	8	4	26	57	5
e. When did you have the most faith in government?	2	64	4	28	2
f. When did your children receive the best care?	-	34	2	60	4
g. When did you have the best job opportunities?	-	23	8	66	3
h. When did you feel the best about yourself?	2	47	6	45	-
i. When did you have the least money worries?	-	81	4	11	4
j. When did you feel best able to support your family?	2	79	4	15	-
k. When were your children the happiest?	-	34	-	66	-
l. When did you have the most desire to get ahead?	2	49	8	40	1
m. When were you most dependent on other people?	13	4	40	19	24
n. When did you spend the most time with your children?	4	30	4	59	3

spent the most time with their children. (Despite the fact that 66% of the parents felt that the program did not increase their job opportunities, 23% felt that it did.)

From the standpoint of human costs, then, there is little doubt that the pilot sliding fee program helped 53 Ramsey County families, headed primarily by single working women, to manifest significant positive changes in their quality of life and their potential for upward social mobility.

Monetary Costs

To maintain an accurate perspective, however, the hard facts of the dollars-and-cents cost to government (and society) must also be considered. As described in the Analysis section, three net government cost figures were computed for each family; one each for the intervals before, during, and after the program. The averages for each interval were then compared to determine when the 53 families cost the government the most in terms of net monetary expenditures.

The average government cost figures for the three intervals are listed in Table 2. A negative value means that the government paid out more in subsidies than it received in tax revenues. Conversely, a positive value means that the government received more in tax revenues than it paid out in subsidies.

Table 2.

Average Net Cost To Government For 53 Families:
Tax Revenues Less Social Program Subsidies

BEFORE PROGRAM	DURING PROGRAM	AFTER PROGRAM
-$18.70	-$70.98	+$11.02

As the table values indicate, the 53 families were, on the average, "costing" the government $18.70 per month before the program and they were "costing" the government $70.98 per month during the program, but they were "paying" the government $11.02 per month after the program.

If one were to evaluate the program solely on the basis of dollars-and-cents cost to government during the program versus before the program, it could be argued that the expense of the program made it difficult to justify. If one were to look at the cost pattern as a whole, however, it could be more strongly asserted that the program financially benefitted government in the long run because net expenditures were lower after the program than they had been before the program. This second point of view has been deemed more appropriate to the present evaluation, since the goal of a social program of this type is generally considered to be that of enhancing the ultimate good of society rather than seeking only immediate gains.

CONCLUSIONS

In taking both the human (social) costs and the governmental (monetary) costs of the Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program into account, the present study yielded two important findings:

1. The quality of life for participating families improved as a direct result of the program, thereby providing social benefit to the community.

2. While the initial financial impact of the program was great, the economic status of participating families ultimately reached a level which provided tax revenue increases capable of "repaying" society.

It is therefore concluded that the overall impact of the Pilot Child Care Sliding Fee Program for 53 Ramsey County families was positive in that it increased the level of societal well-being and, ultimately, decreased the net amount of government subsidy expenditures.

APPENDICES:

Survey Questionnaire

Average Responses of 53 Participants

Cover Letter

Participant Identification and Request Form

Follow-up Reminder

Definition of Sliding Fee Eligibility

Sample: Fee Schedule For Family of Three

Child Care Council of Ramsey County
6 WEST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 601, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 612-222-0641

SURVEY OF PARENT-USERS
OF THE
RAMSEY COUNTY PILOT SLIDING FEE PROGRAM

(including average responses of 53 families)

The Ramsey County Welfare Department operated a sliding fee program from January, 1976 through May, 1977. The purpose of this survey is to determine how the sliding fee program benefited you and your children and what can be done to start up a new program.

Please answer all questions as accurately as you can. Your answers are completely confidential and will not be associated with your name.

1. Which of the following reasons most accurately describes why you left the sliding fee program? (check only one)

77% a. ○ I left when the program ended.
6% b. ○ I left because I stopped working.
- c. ○ I left because I stopped going to school.
6% d. ○ I left because my income became too high.
4% e. ○ I left because I became eligible for free child care (Title XX).
- f. ○ I left because I moved out of the county.
8% g. ○ Other. (please describe) _____

2. During the program, how many members of your immediate family, including yourself, lived in your home? 2.85 people.

3. Were you living with your spouse during the time that you were on the sliding fee program? 11%-YES; 89%- NO

4. Are you: 9%-Male; 91%-Female

5. How many children did you have enrolled in the program? 1.57 children enrolled.

6. Who took care of each of your enrolled children while you were working or in school?

(Please write number of children on line.)	Before You Entered Program	During The Program	After You Left Program
a. Husband or wife.	2%	-	2%
b. Brother or sister.	4%	2%	6%
c. Other relative.	13%	8%	4%
d. Non-relative (agency).	74%	91%	74%
e. Child cared for self.	-	-	4%
f. Child did not need care.	6%	-	6%
g. Other. (please describe) _____	2%	-	2%

- continued on next page -

7. Where did each of your children receive care?

(please write number of children on line)	Before Program	During Program	After Program
a. Parent's home.	9%	2%	4%
b. Licensed family day care home.	30%	32%	30%
c. Babysitter's home.	23%	11%	13%
d. Nursery school or day care center.	21%	43%	36%
e. Did not need care.	6%	-	6%
f. Other. (please describe) _____	12%	12%	11%

8. How much money per week did you pay, that was not paid back by welfare, for child care for all of your children?
   a. Before you were in the sliding fee program? $25.30
   b. While you were in the sliding fee program? $ 9.42
   c. After you left the sliding fee program? $28.45

9. How much money per week did welfare pay to your child care provider(s), or to you, for child care for all of your children?
   a. Before you were in the sliding fee program? $ 4.09 (Title XX, AFDC average)
   b. While you were in the sliding fee program? $28.72 (sliding fee average)
   c. After you left the sliding fee program? $ 1.02 (Title XX, AFDC average)

10. Before you were in the sliding fee program, what was the monthly gross income (before deductions were withheld for taxes, etc.) of:
   a. Yourself? $581.00
   b. Others who worked in your household? $ 37.00

11. During the sliding fee program, what was the monthly gross income (before deductions were withheld for taxes, etc.) of:
   a. Yourself? $604.00
   b. Others who worked in your household? $ 42.00

12. After you left the sliding fee program, what was the monthly gross income (before deductions were withheld for taxes, etc.) of:
   a. Yourself? $608.00
   b. Others who worked in your household? $ 35.00

13. What was the amount of money that you received from the following sources each month during the three time periods indicated?

	Before Program	During Program	After Program
a. Money from welfare (AFDC, GA, etc.)?	$ 6.83	$ -	$ 5.40
b. Child support and alimony?	$58.08	$62.32	$68.17
c. Other sources? (please describe) _____	$ -	$ -	$ -

- continued on next page -

14. Did you receive food stamps? (circle Y or N for each item)

	YES	NO
a. Before you were in the sliding fee program?	15%	85%
b. While you were in the sliding fee program?	4%	96%
c. After you left the sliding fee program?	11%	89%

15. Did you receive medical assistance payments from welfare? (circle Y or N)

	YES	NO
a. Before you were in the sliding fee program?	13%	87%
b. While you were in the sliding fee program?	6%	94%
c. After you left the sliding fee program?	6%	94%

16. During the time you were in the program, were you: (check one)

92% a. ○ Working? 2% c. ○ In school or job training?
6% b. ○ In college? - d. ○ None of the above.

17. If you had a spouse in the household during the program was he/she: (check one)

8% a. ○ Working? - c. ○ In school or job training?
2% b. ○ In college? - d. ○ None of the above.
90% e. ○ Does not apply.

18. After you left the sliding fee program, did you? (circle Y or N for each item)

	YES	NO
a. Quit work?	9%	91%
b. Go on AFDC?	2%	98%
c. Find child care that cost you less than what you were using?	34%	66%
d. Take child care that was not as good?	19%	81%
e. Pay more money for child care?	45%	55%
f. Reduce your income to qualify for free child care (Title XX)?	4%	96%
g. Find your life style to be more comfortable?	2%	98%
h. Make other changes in your life style? (please describe below)	70%	30%

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. Which of the following statements do you most agree with? (check only one)

11% a. ○ I should receive free child care regardless of my income.
89% b. ○ I should pay an amount for child care depending on my income.
- c. ○ I should pay the entire cost for child care regardless of my income.

20. If the government is to pay some of your child care costs, which one method of payment would you prefer? (check only one)

55% a. ○ I'd prefer to have the government directly pay the provider of care.
42% b. ○ I'd prefer to have the government pay me back the money I have to pay to the provider.
4% c. ○ I'd prefer to have the government reduce my taxes by the amount I paid to the provider.

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21. Please answer each of the following questions. (circle your answer)

(These averages are contained in Table 1.)	Before Program	During Program	After Program	No Difference
a. When did your children most like their caregiver?	B	D	A	ND
b. When were you most satisfied with your job?	B	D	A	ND
c. When were your family problems the worst?	B	D	A	ND
d. When did you argue most with your children?	B	D	A	ND
e. When did you have the most faith in government?	B	D	A	ND
f. When did your children receive the best care?	B	D	A	ND
g. When did you have the best job opportunities?	B	D	A	ND
h. When did you feel the best about yourself?	B	D	A	ND
i. When did you have the least money worries?	B	D	A	ND
j. When did you feel best about your ability to support your family?	B	D	A	ND
k. When were your children the happiest?	B	D	A	ND
l. When did you have the most desire to get ahead?	B	D	A	ND
m. When were you most dependent on other people?	B	D	A	ND
n. When did you spend the most time with your children?	B	D	A	ND

22. We would appreciate any other comments you have in the space below.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the form.

Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope. It would be appreciated if you would complete the enclosed card and return it in the envelope also.

Child Care Council of Ramsey County
6 WEST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 601, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 612 222-0541

February 3, 1978

Dear Sliding Fee Participant:

We need your help! Ramsey County and the Child Care Council are trying to find out how last year's sliding fee program affected you and your family.

Please take a few minutes tonight to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and drop it in the mail tomorrow morning. We have included a stamped, self-addressed envelope for you to use.

Your quick response will provide important information that will be used to seek funding for a new sliding fee program.

A note on privacy. We are very concerned about protecting your privacy. The code number on the questionnaire will only be used to assure that you will not be bothered by reminder calls once you have completed and returned your questionnaire. We at the Child Care Council do not even know your name since the questionnaire has been addressed and mailed by the Ramsey County Welfare Department. At the same time, however, we would like to contact you if any of your responses need further clarification. For that reason, we have enclosed a separate contact form which we hope you will fill out and return with your questionnaire. Remember, at no time will questionnaires be identified by name.

If you have any questions about the survey or if we can help you with your child care needs, please call us at 222-0541.

Sincerely,

W. Gary Winget
Executive Director

WGW:mb
Enc.

TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION: A RAFFLE

The first 100 participants to complete and return this questionnaire and the enclosed contact form will be eligible for the raffle. Two winners will be selected randomly and each will receive a book of McDonald's gift certificates.

Participant Identification and Request Form

CONTACT FORM ☐☐☐

Name (Completion of this form was entirely optional.) Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Please contact me to clear up any questions you have about my questionnaire answers. Also:

☐ Send me a summary of the survey findings.

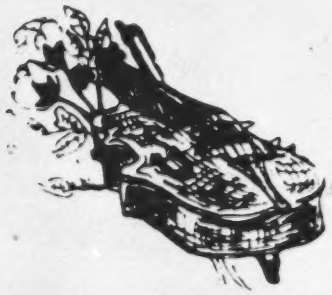
☐ Send me information on the sliding fee bill being considered by the State Legislature.

☐ Send me information on how I can join the Child Care Council.

Please return this form with your questionnaire.

Follow-up Reminder

Child Care Council of Ramsey County



We have a Sad Tale to Tell

We've received many heartening responses to our SURVEY of the PILOT CHILD CARE SLIDING FEE PROGRAM, but we've missed hearing from you. Please send us your questionnaire. If you need another form, call Frank or Maxine at 222-0541.

19 *Thank You!*

Definition of Sliding Fee Eligibility

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Ramsey County Welfare Department will subsidize low income parents whose children are in need of day care because the parent(s) are out of the home engaged in employment or enrolled in an educational program approved by RCWD, or the parent(s) requests assistance in meeting special developmental needs of a child and such need is approved by RCWD. This care will usually be provided in a licensed Family Day Care Home or a licensed Day Care Center. Subsidies to parents to cover costs of informal child care (babysitting, payment to relatives, and non-licensed care) may be considered on an individual case basis.

POPULATION TO BE SERVED:

1) Persons who formerly received this service under Title IV-A who no longer qualify under Title XX.

2) Persons who receive the service under Title XX but become ineligible for Title XX when their public assistance grants are terminated.

3) Other persons in the community who are in need of a child care subsidy who neither were former Title IV-A, Title XX, or former public assistance recipients.

4) Children served must be under 13 years of age.

5) Children for whom a public school kindergarten program is available will be expected to use this resource first.

Fee Schedule for Family of Three

ANNUAL GROSS	MONTHLY GROSS	MONTHLY PAYMENT
7960 - 8160	664 - 680	2
8161 - 8360	681 - 697	5
8361 - 8560	698 - 713	8
8561 - 8760	714 - 730	15
8761 - 8960	731 - 747	22
8961 - 9160	748 - 763	30
9161 - 9360	764 - 780	40
9361 - 9560	781 - 797	50
9561 - 9760	798 - 813	63
9761 - 9960	814 - 830	77
9961 - 10160	831 - 847	92
10161 - 10360	848 - 863	108
10361 - 10560	864 - 880	125
10561 - 10760	881 - 897	142
10761 - 10960	898 - 913	158
10961 - 11160	914 - 930	175
11161 - 11360	931 - 947	191
11361 - 11560	948 - 963	208
11561 - 11760	964 - 980	225
11761 - 11960	981 - 997	242

(For incomes over $997 per month, the family pays $242 and all income over $997 per month.)